



# News Release

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Office of Inspector General  
Washington, DC 20546

For Release  
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## **NASA CONTRACTOR PAYS SETTLEMENT OF \$320,000 FOR SELLING UNTESTED ELECTRONIC PARTS**

On February 15, 2000, Maxwell Energy Products, Inc., formerly known as Maxwell-Sierra Capacitor and Filter Division, Carson City, NV, agreed to pay \$320,000 in settlement of allegations that the NASA contractor failed to perform, or properly perform required testing on items manufactured for NASA's Cassini Deep Space Transponder, Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous (N.E.A.R.) and the Mars Pathfinder spacecraft. Also affected were parts produced for the U.S. Army, Air Force, and Navy.

On March 7, 2000, Maxwell paid the \$320,000 settlement. The U.S. Department of Justice negotiated the agreement on behalf of NASA and the Department of Defense. The qui tam relator in this matter will receive \$48,000 under the processes of the False Claims Statute.

This investigation was conducted by Special Agents from the NASA, Office of the Inspector General, Office of Criminal Investigations; Defense Criminal Investigation Service (DCIS); U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI); Naval Criminal Investigation Service (NCIS); and the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID). The prosecution was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie Jackson, U.S. Department of Justice, Commercial Litigation Branch (Fraud), Civil Division, Washington, D.C., 202-514-1888.

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